

CLAIM AMENDMENTS:

Claims 1-9, 13, 15, 16 and 17 (Cancelled)

10. (Currently Amended) Apparatus for processing substantially rectangular shaped raw tread strips salvaged from tire carcasses having two shorter ends and two longer sides to obtain patterned strips of precise dimension and shape comprising in combination: power actuated strip feeder means comprising a transporter work station frame having two spaced sets of rotary transit-cutter wheel blades for transporting said strips through a transport path extending between the shorter ends, said transit cutter wheel blade sets forming grasping means for [grasping] grabbing one shorter end of the raw tread strips [and passing them] thereby to pull the strips through [a linear transit] said transport path, and strip shaping means [along the transit path] operable during transit of the strips through said [linear transit] transport path to remove tread strip edge portions along the two longer sides to produce [a] from the raw strips narrower rectangular shaped [strip] strips of precise width extending between said two shorter ends.

11. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of Claim 10 wherein the [strip] strip shaping means further comprises means for providing tread strips of uniform width from said rectangular shaped raw tread strips with indentation means operable at designated spacings near opposite edges of raw input tread strips as the strips pass through the transit path for indenting edges along said longer sides between said two shorter ends and producing uniform longitudinal strip edges with relaxed tension thereby encouraging the narrower [strip] strips to lie flat.

12. (Currently Amended) Apparatus defined in Claim 10 wherein the strip shaping means at said transporter work station frame comprises two [sequential] shaping devices for cutting and shaping the raw tread strips in different ways [at two sequential stations] along the strip [transit] transport path.

14. (Amended) Apparatus as defined in Claim 10 wherein the shaping means comprises indentation means for [introducing] cutting a set of longitudinally spaced [indentation patterns] indentations extending [along] into the longer sides of the narrower tread strips of precise width.

15. (Cancelled)

17. (Cancelled)

18. (Currently Amended) Apparatus defined in Claim 10 wherein the tread strips have a tread surface and a surface opposite to the tread surface, and wherein the shaping means further comprises means for removing tread surface from the tread strip along the transport path to establish shaped tread strips of uniform thickness.